

Written Testimony of Nancy B. Mason

Before the General Assembly Energy and Technology Committee

Regarding HB 6360 AN ACT CONCERNING IMPLEMENTATION OF CONNECTICUT'S  
COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY STRATEGY

March 6, 2013

Senator Duff, Representative Reed, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill 6360. It has become clear that moving decisively toward sustainability is imperative. **Conservation of energy** is the first and most cost effective step in that process.

My husband and I are new homeowners of a town-home in West Hartford . We are 77 and 74 years old respectively and moved here in hopes of “aging in place.” To do so would not only please us but help contain collective medical costs in Connecticut and the nation. In January, a month after moving in, we had an energy audit through the CT Energy Efficiency Fund. The benefits were immediate. Incandescent light bulbs were replaced by energy efficient florescent ones. We learned that we will be able to replace the 25-year-year-old air-conditioning compressor with a new, far more efficient one, at a substantial saving if we do it within 4 months of the audit. And a \$50 rebate, made available through the audit program, encouraged us to replace the old dryer with an “energy star” one which we have done. Without this program, which we learned of through the “Cool Congregations” program of “Interfaith Power and Light,” we would not have found out whether or not our furnace was suffieciently efficient and the doors and windows efficiently tight.

This experience has raised our awareness of the importance of conserving energy and of making sure the public is aware of ways they can participate and benefit. We therefore ask you to continue and expand energy efficiency programs and to make them available to users of home heating oil as well as natural gas users.

Furthermore, Connecticut must continue to encourage the growth of truly clean, regionally produced renewable energy by protecting the integrity of the Renewable Portfolio Standard. I oppose HB 6531 which would dilute and weaken the RPS. I also oppose HB 6532 which would include subsidies for trash incineration facilities. HB 6535 could be rewritten to increase incentives for other forms of clean

energy **without lessening incentives for wind and solar.**

Again, sustainability, along with clean air and water, is the goal: it is good for the economy and good for citizens. We need wise decision-making in the legislature to achieve it. Your constituents expect that of you.

Thank you for voting to preserve the energy audit program and other state programs that will result in conservation of energy and progress towards a **sustainable economy and health-promoting environment.**

Very Truly Yours,

Nancy and Karl Mason

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